

Message Text

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SUBJ: SHAH'S COMMENTS ON PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE

AT AUDIENCE LATE AFTERNOON ON MARCH 1, SHAH SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED INVITATION FROM FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD FOR PREPARATORY MEETING OF OIL PRODUCING AND CONSUMING NATIONS TO BE HELD PARIS IN EARLY APRIL. AFTER RATTLING OFF LIST OF COUNTRIES INVITED, HE OPINED THAT THERE WOULD BE MUCH DISSATISFACTION ON THE PART OF CERTIN NATIONS LEFT OUT. AS EXAMPLE, HE INDICATED THAT IF INDIA IS AN INVITEE, PAKISTAN WOULD CERTAINLY WANT TO BE AN OBSERVER. FURTHER, HE COMMENTED, THE GROUP OF 77 WHICH HAD RECENTLY MET AT DAKAR WOULD HARDLY BE PLEASED WITH THE REPRESENTATION ACCORDED LDC'S. IN THIS CONNECTION SHAH SPOKE FORCEFULLY ABOUT NECESSITY OF SEPARATING OIL QUESTIONS FROM THOSE OF OTHER RAW MATERIALS. AFTER ENERGY PROBLEMS ARE SETTLED, HE INDICATED, THEN IT WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO ADDRESS THE RELATIONSHIPS OF PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS ON OTHER RAW MATERIALS. ANY CONFERENCE WHICH ATTEMPTED TO FACE ALL THESE MATTERS AT ONE TIME WAS DOOMED TO FAILURE. ALTHOUGH NOTEXPLICITLY STATED, SHAH LEFT DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT HE IS NOT HAPPY WITH LIST OF PRESIDENT GISCARD'S INVITEES, BECAUSE IT PUTS TOGETHER A CONFERENCE WHICH HE DOES NOT BELIEVE CAN ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING USEFUL IN VIEW OF THE DISPARATE INTERESTS OF THE PARTICIPANTS.

HELMS

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